

Fort Worth Daily Gazette.

Successor to the Democrat-Advance.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1883.

VOL. 7, NO. 56

AUSTIN.

School Tax Bill Consumes the Day at the Capitol.

Eloquence Indulged in by Two Members of the House.

Speeches and Arguments Over a Matter of Ten Cents.

Morning and Afternoon Session Required to Dispose of It.

Message of the Bill to Prevent Careless Handling of Pistols.

Senate.

Austin, February 20.—The senate adjourned at the usual hour a quorum present.

The following petitions were presented and referred.

Mr. Perry.—From citizens of Tarrant county asking prohibitory amendments.

Mr. Pfeiffer.—From citizens of Tarrant county asking prohibitory amendments.

Mr. Fleming.—From citizens of Tarrant county protesting against the passage of the bill.

Mr. Davis.—From the judiciary committee reported favorably the bill changing the supreme court from five to seven.

A minority report was read, signed Messrs. Brown of Shelby, Peacock and Buchanan.

Mr. Perrell from judiciary committee No. 1, reported unfavorably a house bill relative to a change in the duties of county judges and clerks of courts and for

amending the courts over which they sit. A minority report dissenting was read; favorably, authorizing county commissioners to issue bonds for the repair of courts.

Mr. Gooch, from judiciary committee, reported favorably the bill amending the law relative to bringing suits for damages against railroads for injuries received.

Mr. Evans, from the committee on land, reported favorably, to create a land district of Shackelford, Nolan and

Mr. Peacock, from judiciary committee, reported favorably, providing for sub-counties and judges. A minority report was read.

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of land, a tax of ten cents upon every acre of land so enclosed.

By Mr. Mathews.—Resolution requesting the comptroller to furnish the house the amount paid by citizens of Sherman on railroad subsidy and how the same has been applied. Laid over.

By Mr. Barry.—To enlarge the Texas Mute Ranger and supply a larger press in order that the paper may publish all the stray sales of the state.

REGULAR ORDER.

The joint resolution granting leave of absence to Hon. J. R. Kennard, judge of the fourth judicial district, passed.

Mr. Brown's bill on the stock law came up and was postponed on account of the sickness of its author.

The bill to prevent the careless handling of fire-arms passed by ayes 56, nays 27.

The school tax resolution came up.

Mr. Nash moved to postpone until next Tuesday on the ground that a full vote could not be obtained today.

After some discussion a motion to lay the motion on the table prevailed by a vote of 42 to 42 and the speaker voting aye.

Mr. Ayres moved to strike out twenty-five and insert fourteen cents in the state clause. Lost.

A call of the house was ordered and the motion to suspend. Lost.

Mr. Foster of Limestone renewed his point of order that the amendment of Mr. Cochran created a new section and not having been considered by the committee was out of order.

After considerable discussion the point of order was carried.

Mr. Durant offered an amendment to strike out the words: "Not more than." Lost.

Mr. Foster of Limestone gave his final reasons for voting against the resolution, which were that the majority insisted upon tacking on a rider which hampered the entry of the measure and probably the defeat of it before the people.

Mr. Rogers took substantially the same ground as Mr. Foster.

Mr. Caven's said the majority had made every concession, until the minority had been driven from every stronghold upon the question.

Mr. Foster—I represent my people and presume the gentlemen represent theirs.

Mr. Caven—I represent the people of Texas (applause). If this measure fails and the legislature fall short of its duty to the people the fault is upon the minority.

Mr. Brown claimed to be sincere in his position, voting with the majority, and in this measure there was too much chaff for the wheat.

Mr. Jones made quite a lengthy argument against the position of the minority and in favor of the bill as it stood.

Mr. Taylor in a brief argument reiterated his opposition to the bill in its present shape.

Mr. Moore of Eastland offered an amendment to make the clause read "qualified electors."

Mr. Labatt said the house had agreed to listen to the dying speech of Mr. Foster of Limestone, but now a dozen members had come to preach the funeral oration. He moved the previous question, which was seconded.

Mr. Upton moved to recommit the bill, with instruction to the committee to report the two propositions separately. Ruled out.

The vote was then taken on the final passage of the resolution, which was defeated: ayes 40, nays 29, not the necessary two-thirds by votes.

The noes were Adams of Wood, Ayres, Brown, Barnes, Caven, Cramer, Dennis, Durand, Foster of Limestone, Finch, Garrison, Harrison, Hearn, Latham, Lee, McAlpine, McNeil, Odum, Parsons, Peers, Phelps, Robinson, of Bastrop, Rogers, Rushing, Steel, Taylor, Upton, Watkins and Wilson.

Mr. Upton voted no in order to move a reconsideration and moved to reconsider.

Mr. Hazelwood in an impassioned manner opposed the reconsideration.

Mr. Armistead said he hoped the motion of Mr. Upton would prevail. In alluding incidentally to the minority vote he said it was composed of men who at heart are opposed to free schools. [Great applause.]

Messrs. Taylor, Dennis, Caven and others cried: "It is not true."

Mr. Armistead—The gentlemen say it is untrue. Then they must be the Israelites who crucified Christ, when the Saviour said: "They know not what they do." Upon this ground alone can the democratic party excuse such action.

Mr. McKinney deprecated any ill feeling in the matter.

Messrs. Rogers and Woods argued in favor of a reconsideration.

Mr. Taylor replied to Mr. Armistead's charge that the minority were opposed to free schools, and said he did not consider the gentleman from Marion competent either mentally or morally to dictate to him. When he did think so he would return his credentials to his constituents and acknowledge they were unworthy representation.

Mr. Upton's motion to reconsider prevailed, and pending a motion to recommit, Mr. Armistead got the floor. He said he had not expected to raise such a storm. He thought when people made records, they should be judged by them.

At this juncture the excitement became intense, and the lobbies were crowded. Mr. Armistead stood with folded arms during the numerous cries of "question" and the great confusion all over the house. When he could be heard he coolly remarked that he could not be browbeaten down by cries of "question" that they had struck the wrong man.

Resuming, he referred to those members who professed to represent the farming class and said "God bless the farmers of Leon and Madison counties," (this being a quotation from Durant's campaign address), and impute them with the wisdom to send a

representative here in the future who would properly represent them.

Various points of order were raised and amid the wildest confusion Mr. Armistead yielded to Mr. Upton's motion to adjourn until 3 p. m., which motion prevailed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The pending business was the motion of Mr. Upton to recommit the school resolution to the committee which motion prevailed.

Mr. Benavides offered a resolution inviting General Dala and other prominent Mexicans to visit Austin during their coming visit to Texas. Adopted.

Mr. Hill by leave presented a memorial from citizens of Liberty county against the attachment of Houston and Trinity counties to the thirty-first judicial district.

Mr. Foster of Limestone, by leave, introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of state to sell copies of the general and special laws of the state at a price not to exceed 25 per cent. above the cost of publishing.

The senate and house bills providing for pensions for surviving soldiers and sailors of the Texas revolution; for surviving signers of the declaration of Texas independence and giving the widows of such soldiers, sailors or signers pensions, was taken up.

On motion of Mr. Nash the house bill was substituted for that of the senate.

Mr. Frymier offered an amendment providing that no agent or attorney shall be entitled to any fee by virtue of any contract heretofore made to procure the passage of a pension law or relief act.

The amendment was adopted by ayes 65, nays 19.

Mr. Acker offered an amendment that honest men shall not be considered in defining the status of applicants for pensions.

After a short discussion by Mr. Acker for and Mr. Nash against the amendment it was adopted by ayes 45, nays 25.

Mr. Cramer moved to strike out the enacting clause of the bill. Carried, and he moved to reconsider and Mr. Armistead moved to lay that motion on the table. The latter motion was lost and the bill reconsidered.

On motion of Mr. Harrison the bill was recommitted to the committee on state affairs.

Adjourned.

FOREIGN.

Southwestern Exhibited in the House of Commons Yesterday.

"Number One" of the Invincibles is Identified as McAdams.

Another Steamer Reported Lost—The Trial of the Assassins.

London, February 20.—In the house of commons this afternoon Trevellyn, chief secretary of Ireland, was again questioned about Sheridan, but declined giving further information regarding him.

Sir Wm. Harcourt information secretary declined to answer a question by Dickson as to the prospect of arresting Brennan. Sir William earnestly denied there was any communication between the government and the suspects in the Kilmainham jail except through Foster.

The American schooner Pilot's Bridge was totally wrecked at Desolation Island. Only four of the crew were saved and landed at Capetown.

London, February 20.—The Allan Line steamer Buenos Ayres, in a collision, sank a steamer off Lamah, Scotland. Eleven of the crew of the latter steamer were drowned.

The police are convinced that the man known as "Number One" is General McAdams, who was in London Saturday.

Mrs. Byrne arrived in Dublin and was examined at the castle this morning. She will be charged in the police court this afternoon with being concerned in the conspiracy. It is reported she made a full confession of all she knew concerning the work of the assassins. Several arrests are expected to strengthen her information.

The Standard gives the name of the man called "No. 1," as Mlene. He was often in the lobby in the house of commons in 1882, and was well-known to the land leaguers who denied they had any knowledge of his character or mission.

Dublin, February 20.—James Mullet, one of the conspirators, was allowed to receive letters and sign checks. A man named Quinlan and two named Mahoney, all ex-suspects belonging to Castle Island were arrested, charged with being members of the "Invincibles." The wives and mothers of the prisoners were admitted to the gallery of the court to-day and warmly greeted the prisoners.

Carr failed to identify Mrs. Byrne and she was discharged.

Paris, February 20.—A deputa-tion of working men yesterday presented a memorial to President Grevy protesting against any political inability of France, which they say injures the interests of labor. They declare the prime causes of the condition of affairs complained of is the toleration shown pretenses and over-placancy towards foreign powers.

Went Work.

Sing Sing, N. Y., February 20.—Eighty men in the shoe shop refused to work & have been locked up. Forty-two were locked up yesterday and are still in the cells. More trouble is anticipated. By prompt action violence has been prevented thus far.

Gun Burned.

Hico, Texas, February 20.—McKinney's gin, which was slightly burned last Friday night in Hico, was entirely destroyed by fire last night. It is thought to be the work of an incendiary.

ANOTHER HORROR.

A Fatal Fire Alarm in a Catholic School House.

Girls and Boys Panic Stricken Rush Wildly to Death.

They Fall Headlong Over Balustrades to the Lower Floors.

A Pile of Lifeless Forms Lying Five and Six Deep.

Fourteen Young Pupils Sacrificed in the Terrible Tumult.

New York, February 20.—An out-break of fire under the stairs of the second floor of the school house attached to the German Catholic Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, on Fourth street between avenue A and First avenue, at a quarter past three this afternoon, was the cause of a terrible calamity. No less than fourteen children lost their lives. Over seven hundred scholars, mostly children of the poorer classes, ranging from six to eleven years of age attended the school and were in their class rooms when the alarm of fire was raised. A fearful panic soon followed. The removal of the children from the fourth floor began quietly enough and was progressing rapidly enough when a sister of charity in charge of a class of girls fainting. Immediately the alarmed class became panic-stricken, and a rush was made for the hallway. On the stairs, already crowded, a deadly crush took place. The railing of the stairs broke and the mass of struggling children was precipitated to the floor below, falling in a packed mass, one on the other from four to five deep. The police and firemen, already summoned, arrived, but their work of rescue was much hampered by the frightened children continuing to fall from the stairway, those in front being crowded over the balustrade by the children behind struggling to reach the exits. Six children were taken out dead from the bottom, and eight more died immediately after the rescue, making fourteen. A large number of others, who were carried to the neighboring tenements were reported dying. The excitement when the news of the catastrophe spread was fearful, and great throngs of people blocked the streets surrounding the school. Many children lost in the excitement are reported missing. Sister Apronia, who had charge of a class of girls said: "I was in charge of my class when fire first broke out in the hallway adjoining my room. I heard a commotion and great confusion and a hubbub of voices at once. I turned toward the room door and then, for the first time, discovered the smoke coming in through the window. I immediately went to the door and as I opened it, the flames rushed in on me. I at once closed the door and was about to warn the children to keep calm when some men burst into the room. In a moment the children ran out at the bidding of the men and I followed seeing all were escaping. Many of them however went to the stairs at the west side of the building and were injured by falling over the stairs where the boys had broken down the banisters before them. There were about a hundred girls in my class."

The sister in charge of the first class of the girls department on the fourth floor said: "I was not aware of what was going on till I looked out and saw the boys on my floor running over the west side of the stairs and going wildly down. I heard the balustrade give way and then was about to turn to look after my charge when they all arose as if seized with fright and dashed past me recklessly and ran down the stairs and broke down the banisters before them. I saw none of my girls injured and they disappeared so quickly from my sight I hoped they all had escaped in safety."

The sister appeared calm and composed and seemed to have retained her self-possession during the trying moments of her harrowing experience.

Another account says the fire from which the smoke spread through the building, bringing such terrible results to the innocent pupils, was most of a trivial character. It started among a mass of sweaters in a closet behind the stairs leading from the second to the third floor on the east side of the building. It had been smoldering for some time and had eaten its way through to the center of the partition wall, dividing the hall from the class room in front, and crept up toward the third floor ere it was discovered.

At that moment a visitor called at the school to see one of the pupils in the fifth class, which is on the second floor, and the door of which opened almost opposite and within five feet of the closet, in which the sweepings were burning. The visitor knocked at the door, which was opened by one of the sisters by whom the school is conducted. Scarcely had the door swung back on its hinges when the flames burst out from under the stairway.

The sister hastily shut the door, but not until some of the children in her care had caught a sight of the fire. All efforts to quiet them were in vain and they rushed madly from the class room. The smoke now rolled out of the closet in great volumes and in a few seconds spread to all parts of the building and a scene of wildest confusion ensued. The school building is five stories high and has nine class rooms, seven for girls and two for boys. The rear of the school abuts at the rear of the church of the Holy Redeemer which fronts on Third street. There are two stairways one on the east and one on the west end of the building. These stairways were about three and a half feet wide and opened almost into the doors of

the class rooms but from the play room in the centre building were approached by narrow, dark passage ways. When the girls of this second floor rushed from their class rooms, they hardly reached the head of the stairs when the boys and girls from the upper floors were upon them. All frantically fought to get down the narrow stairway; the first were thrown headlong to the bottom. Then as the crush came from hundreds of children trying to get down from the upper floors on the east side of the building, the balustrade gave away, going down, and fully fifty children were thrown to the floor beneath. On these others fell, until they were piled five feet high on top of each other.

Officer Lambert, secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, happened to be in East Fourth street, nearly opposite the scene when the alarm was given. He says: "I rushed into the building and a terrible sight met my eye. Backed into the narrow hall on the first floor were fifty to seventy-five little girls. The poor things were screaming and struggling with all their might. By this time other police and citizens had arrived and we began pulling the children out of the hallway. The cries of some of the children at the bottom of the pile grew fainter and fainter and then ceased altogether."

Detective Robert said the fire broke out under the staircase on the second floor and was easily extinguished. "I examined the place and it seems to me some matches must have been swept with the papers under the stairs and been ignited by friction with the floor."

Solomon Reed said on the floor behind the stair lay a mass of struggling, screaming children piled on top of each other. As quickly as possible we pulled them out and passed them one by one through the window. Those on top were still alive but when we reached the bottom we came upon ten dead. It was an awful sight to see them lying there on their faces with mouths and eyes wide open and their dresses in disorder. One little girl, Minnie Trupe, was still alive. She died however, on the way to the station house. It is the most awful scene I ever passed through. The dead were removed to the police station on Fifth street and First avenue and laid in a row on the floor in the back room. They were all quickly identified by their sorrow stricken mothers and little brothers and sisters, and the removal of each to the afflicted home of the family was promptly permitted by the authorities. The scene in the class rooms and in the halls after the panic was almost indescribable. Corn books and broken school atlases and fragments of torn books were scattered on the floors, evidence of the wild struggle of children to escape from the

Washington.

The President Nominates of Civil Service Commission.

The Star Route Trial—F. r sideration of the Tar.

Washington, February 20.—In the star route cases, Redell continued identification of the handwriting and signatures of papers connected with the Kearney-Kent route. When he testified that Miner signed the names of the other defendants, Kenkle, (Miner's counsel) gave notice he intended to move to exclude all of Redell's testimony touching his client. The court replied it would be rather late to make such a motion after hearing the testimony, and ascertaining whether it was for or against them. The court overruled the motion, saying it could not be entertained for a moment. It was not likely it would go to the extremity of saying what evidence should be given and what should be excluded, or whether evidence was needed or not. The examination of the papers was then resumed.

A favorable report was submitted to the house to-day from the committee of elections upon the bill to pay the expenses of the contested cases of the sixty-seventh congress, \$7,000 dollars were added to the list as originally reported.

The bill to pay Frost of Missouri \$10,000 and Seeingsham \$16,000 will not be reported, but it is understood additional reimbursement will be asked in the deficiency bill.

Senate.

Washington, February 20.—The house bill extending the time of filing Alabama claims passed with an amendment.

The senate resumed consideration of the tariff bill, pending the question on a motion to reconsider the vote by which the duty on green and colored glass bottles, vials, demijohns, etc., cut, engraved and packed, from 30 per cent. ad valorem to 11 cents per pound. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Sewell moved to make the duty one cent per pound. Lost, thus leaving the rate at 30 per cent. ad valorem.

Mr. Sherman moved to amend the wool and woollen schedule so as to make it read "the duty on wools of the first class, the value whereof at the last port or place whence exported to the United States, excluding charges was 30 cents per pound or less, 12 cents per pound instead of 10 as is in the bill and making the duty on wool of the same class valued above at 30 cents per pound, 14 cents instead of 12 cents per pound, also raising the duty on wools of the second class, hair of alpaca goats and other animals of the value of 20 cents per pound or less, from 10 to 12 cents per pound and the duty on wool of the same class valued above 20 cents, from 13 to 14 cents per pound."

Mr. Ingalls said he would not vote for the changes proposed, unless very good reasons for them be given.

Mr. Morrill hoped the amendment would be rejected. He felt that the action of the senator from Ohio in pressing these changes at this stage of the bill was unjust.